



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ANIMAL SHELTERS CELEBRATE "SUPER SENIOR WEEKEND"** ***Older Animals Need Homes Too***

All animal shelters in the county, private and public, will take part in "Super Senior Weekend", June 3-5, to promote the adoption of older, more mature companion animals.

Participating animal shelters include the three County shelters, Rancho Coastal Humane Society in Encinitas, Helen Woodward Center in Rancho Santa Fe, El Cajon Animal Shelter, Chula Vista Animal Shelter, North County Humane Society in Oceanside, Escondido Humane Society, and San Diego Humane Society.

"As we enter the puppy and kitten season, older animals are often overlooked in favor of the young, the cute, and the cuddly," said Dawn Danielson, director of the County Department of Animal Services. "We want to remind people most older pets are already housetrained, socialized, and often times a far better match for many families, and particularly seniors, looking for a pet."

The County has lowered the age of "senior" dogs and cats, from 7-years-old to 5-years-old (and older), so they can be included in the special "senior" pet adoption fee of \$35, which is half the usual fee.

All adoptions at the three County shelters include vaccination, spaying or neutering, and an identification microchip. Moreover, dogs get a free, one-year license.

The three County Animal Shelters are open Tuesday-Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and are located at 5480 Gaines Street in San Diego, 5821 Sweetwater Road in Bonita, and 2481 Palomar Airport Road in Carlsbad.

Some of the other participating shelters will be open on Sunday. Many are also reducing their adoption fees for older pets or are offering other adoption incentives such as "goody bags" or free pet food. Check with your local shelter for days and hours of operation.

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